

What language options are available?

Statistics Explained is currently only available in English.

Many non-English speaking users make use of online translation tools such as Google Translate to display Statistics Explained pages in other languages.

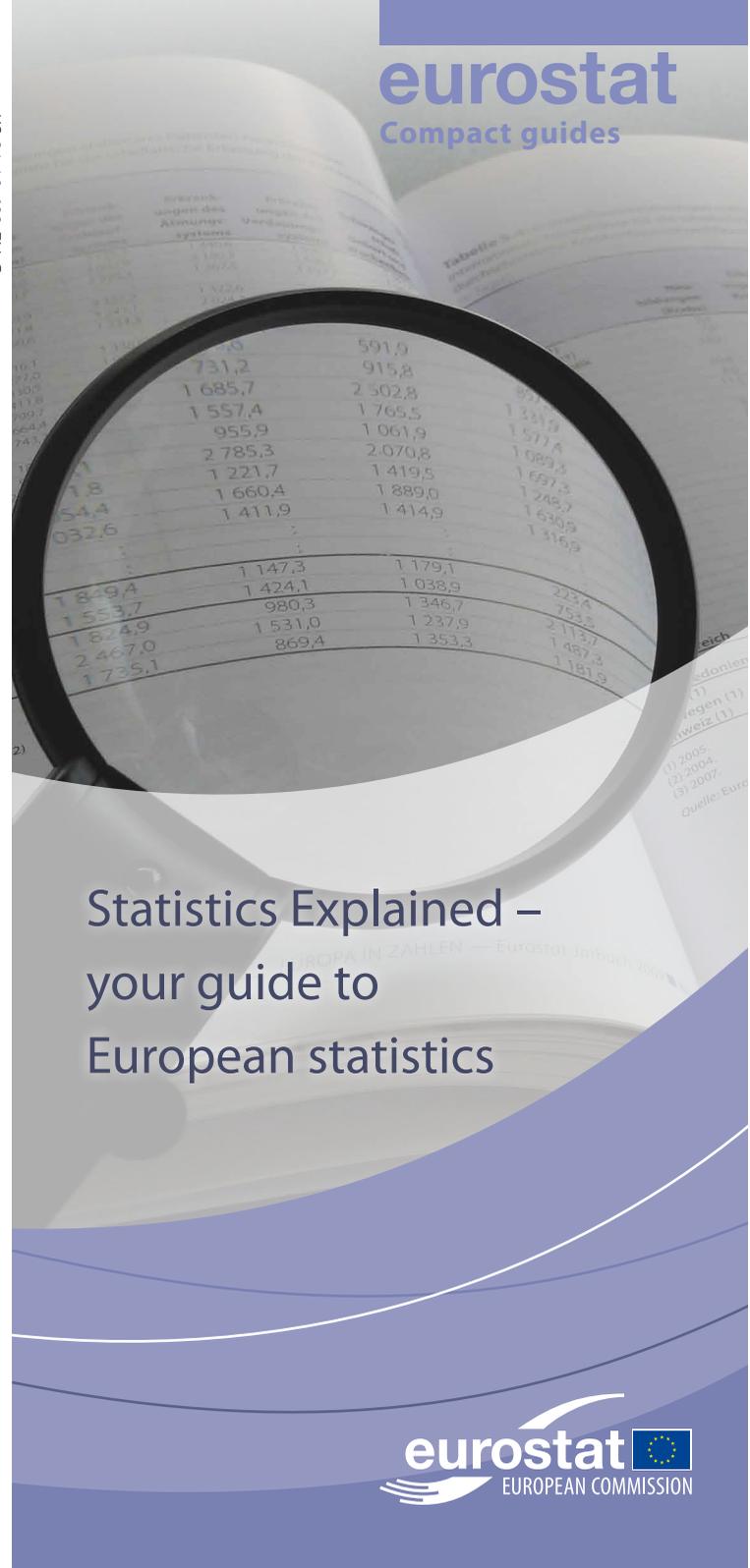
Statistics Explained and Eurostat publications

Since it was created in 2009, the web-based articles on Statistics Explained have gradually replaced several of Eurostat's publications. Summaries and analyses of statistics can be much more rapidly, easily and efficiently released through Statistics Explained than via traditional paper publications.

Some books, like *European Business – facts and figures* have been completely replaced by a set of Statistics Explained articles. However, Eurostat will keep on producing traditional publications in paper and/or PDF format, especially in the following areas:



- **short publications** analysing the freshest statistical data available (**Statistics in Focus** series);
- **methodological publications** for a small, specialist audience (**Methodologies and working papers** series, only available in PDF format);
- a limited number of **flagship publications**, such as the **Eurostat yearbook**. Note that the full content of the Eurostat yearbook is also available on Statistics Explained, where specific articles may be updated more frequently and outside of the annual periodic release of the paper publication;
- a number of free-of-charge **pocketbooks** on main statistical topics, for reference and marketing purposes.



Statistics Explained – your guide to European statistics

The content of Statistics Explained

Statistical articles are the core of Statistics Explained. Statistics Explained includes articles across the complete range of statistical subjects covered by Eurostat – including social and economic statistics, as well as an enormous range of more specialised statistics. The most commonly accessed articles in 2010 related to unemployment, migration, tourism, GDP and national accounts, and various subjects concerning the environment.

The typical statistical article starts with an indication as to the freshness of the data used, a brief introduction, and a table of contents. The main body of each article is composed of the following parts:

- **main statistical findings** – these highlight the most important statistical results, both through text and through a set of tables and graphs; occasionally maps or diagrams are also used to help portray the information being presented.
- **data sources and availability** – this briefly describes how the data were obtained (for example, through which statistical survey); this section may also highlight the legal basis for the

collection of the statistics, provide some background metadata and general explanations of the data and terminology used, as well as highlighting some of the potential limitations and problems that may be associated with the use of the data set.

- **context** – this section provides information on the uses that may be made of the data, in particular providing links to the policy context behind the statistics that are being presented – explaining the role the statistics aim to serve and their importance for society as a whole or for particular groups.
- **further Eurostat information** – this section provides direct links to more detailed or more recent information on the Eurostat website.
- **external links** – the articles generally close with a set of hyperlinks to other trustworthy bodies.
- **categories** – at the end of each article and many of the glossary/background pages there are a set of hyperlinks that provide rapid access to related articles that may well be of further interest to the reader.

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Minimum wage statistics

Data from February 2011, most recent data: Further Eurostat information, main tables and database.

Minimum wage statistics published by Eurostat refer to *monthly national minimum wages*. The national minimum wage usually applies to all employees, or at least to a large majority of employees in the country. Minimum wages are gross amounts, that is, before deduction of income tax and social security contributions. Such deductions vary from country to country. The national minimum wage is enforced by law, often after consultation with the social partners, or directly by national intersectoral agreement (this is the case in Belgium and Greece).

The article below illustrates how minimum wage levels – established by national legislation or directly by national intersectoral agreement – vary considerably among European Union (EU) Member States and within the euro area and also provides a comparison with the situation in the United States.

Contents [hide]

- 1 Main statistical findings
 - 1.1 Variation of statutory minimum wages
 - 1.2 Minimum wages expressed in purchasing power parities
 - 1.3 Minimum wage level in relation to average gross monthly earnings
- 2 Context
- 3 Data sources and availability
 - 3.1 Statutory monthly minimum wages
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Main statistical findings

In January 2011, 20 of the EU's 27 Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and the United Kingdom) and two candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey) had national legislation setting a minimum wage by statute or by national intersectoral agreement.

Monthly minimum wages varied widely, from 123 EUR in Bulgaria to 1 758 EUR in Luxembourg. When adjusted for

Map 1: Minimum wages in the EU, EFTA and candidate countries, January 2011, in EUR

Getting behind the figures

Many users not only want to view data, but they also wish to be informed about their exact meaning. Statistics Explained contains two types of special web pages in the form of a glossary of statistical terms and more detailed methodological information through background pages.

Glossary pages

Glossary entries appear as hyperlinks within statistical articles – they allow the user to open a new page that contains a simple explanation of the glossary term and then to return to the original article. Some glossary entries are followed by a set of hyperlinks for more detailed or related information.

There are a large number of glossaries focused on particular subjects or groups of information, for example:

- a set of **statistical glossaries** for the main statistical themes (for example, population and social conditions), as well as a number of more detailed subject specific glossaries (for example, living conditions and social protection).
- **abbreviations** used within Statistics Explained, see http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Category:Abbreviations
- geographical areas, for example, ASEAN, DAC or the Andean pact are detailed in the **geography glossary**, see http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Category:Geography_glossary

Glossary:Unemployment

An **unemployed** person is defined by Eurostat, according to the guidelines of the International Labour Organization, as:

- someone aged 15 to 74 (in Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway: 16 to 74 years);
- without work during the reference week;
- available to start work within the next two weeks (or has already found a job to start within the next three months);
- actively having sought employment at some time during the last four weeks.

The **unemployment rate** is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force.

– abbreviations and special names that are used in relation to the European Union, its policies, institutions and treaties, for example, the EU 2020 strategy, the EIB, or the CAP are grouped under the category heading of **EU institutions glossary**, see http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Category:EU_institutions_glossary.

Category:Geography glossary

The **Geography glossary** contains all glossary items concerning regions, countries and groupings of countries.

Pages in category "Geography glossary"

The following 68 pages are in this category, out of 68 total.

A	D	E
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■ ASEAN	■ Development Assistance Committee (DAC)	■ Ext
■ AU		
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■ Andean Community (CAN)	■ EA-12	■ Ged
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	■ EA-16	■ Intr
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B	■ EEA (1)	L
■ BRIC	■ EFTA	■ LU
■ BRICS	■ EMU	■ Lan
■ Baltic Member States	■ EU	
■ Baltic countries	■ EU enlargements	M
■ Baltic states	■ EU-12	■ Me
■ Benelux	■ EU-15	■ Me
	■ EU-25	■ Me
C	■ EU-27	N
■ CAN		

Access to the full range of glossary items is available at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Category:Glossary.

Background pages

These pages are designed to provide comprehensive methodological information, on subjects such as particular statistical indicators, statistical methods or classifications. Background articles look deeper into the subject presented and have no predefined structure as they are diverse in nature. Examples include articles on European sector accounts, the agricultural census, and the methodology used for the harmonised indices of consumer prices (HICP).

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National accounts – GDP

Data from October 2010, most recent data: Further Eurostat information, Main tables and Database.

experienced the largest reductions in their profit shares, along with Norway. Latvia recorded the highest percentage point increase between 2008 and 2009, up by 5.4 points, while Spain was the only one of the five largest EU economies to record an increase (up 1.2 points).

Data sources and availability

The European system of national and regional accounts (ESA) provides the methodology for national accounts in the EU. The current version, ESA95, was fully consistent with worldwide guidelines for national accounts, the 1993 SNA. Following international agreement on an updated version of the SNA in 2008, a respective update of the ESA is, at the time of writing, close to finalisation.

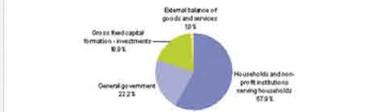
GDP and main components

The main aggregates of national accounts are compiled from institutional units, namely non-financial or financial corporations, general government, households, and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH).

Data within the national accounts domain encompasses information on GDP components, employment, final consumption aggregates and savings. Many of these variables are calculated on an annual and on a quarterly basis.

GDP is the central measure of national accounts, which summarises the economic position of a country (or region). It can be calculated using different approaches: the output approach, the expenditure approach, and the income approach.

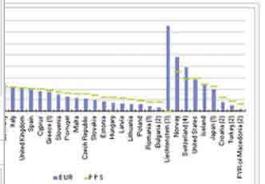
An analysis of GDP per capita removes the influence of the absolute size of the population, making comparisons between different countries easier. GDP per capita is a broad economic indicator of living standards. GDP data in national currencies can be converted into purchasing power standards (PPS) using purchasing power parities (PPPs) that reflect the purchasing power of each currency, rather than using market exchange rates; in this way differences in price levels between countries are eliminated. The volume index of GDP per capita in PPS is expressed in relation to the EU-27 average (set to 100). If the index of a country is below 100, this means that the country's GDP per capita is lower than the EU-27 average.



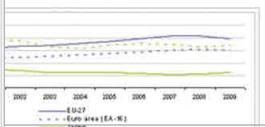
Source: Eurostat (ec00001.ec00001.ec00003 and ec00010)
Figure 8: Expenditure components of GDP, EU-27, 2009 (% share of GDP)

	Total investment			Public investment			Business investment		
	1999	2004	2009	1999	2004	2009	1999	2004	2009
EU-27 (1)	20.8	19.6	19.1	2.3	2.4	2.0	18.1	17.2	16.4
Austria (EU-27)	21.0	20.2	19.6	2.5	2.7	2.8	18.5	17.5	16.1
Belgium	20.7	19.8	21.3	2.0	1.6	1.8	18.8	18.2	19.5
Denmark	19.0	20.4	24.4	2.5	2.9	4.8	11.2	17.5	19.7
Czech Republic	27.0	26.4	22.4	3.9	4.8	5.4	23.0	21.0	17.1
Denmark	19.0	19.3	18.4	1.7	1.9	2.0	18.1	17.4	16.4
Germany	21.3	17.5	17.6	1.6	1.4	1.7	19.4	16.1	16.0
Estonia	34.6	30.0	21.6	4.2	3.8	4.0	30.4	27.1	16.8
Finland	23.1	24.1	16.0	3.1	3.5	4.5	20.0	20.9	11.9
France (2)	21.6	22.0	17.2	3.1	3.5	3.9	17.8	18.9	14.2
Spain	24.6	28.0	24.0	2.3	4.4	2.4	21.2	24.0	19.6
France	18.8	19.3	20.0	2.9	3.1	3.3	15.9	16.2	17.3
Ireland	19.6	20.5	18.0	2.4	2.4	2.4	17.3	18.1	16.5
Italy	17.6	19.0	20.4	2.5	4.0	4.1	13.4	13.1	20.4
Latvia	28.0	27.5	21.5	1.5	3.1	3.0	25.5	24.8	17.5
Lithuania	21.6	22.1	17.0	2.6	3.4	3.0	18.3	18.0	13.1
Luxembourg	21.5	21.5	17.5	4.3	4.3	3.6	16.2	17.3	13.0
Hungary	23.0	17.5	20.0	2.9	3.1	3.5	18.2	14.0	17.0
Malta (3)	23.6	23.6	14.0	1.9	1.9	2.2	21.4	21.7	11.8
Netherlands	22.0	18.0	18.0	3.0	3.2	4.0	19.0	15.6	13.1
Netherlands	23.6	23.1	17.0	2.6	3.4	3.0	21.0	20.0	14.0
Poland	24.4	18.1	21.0	3.5	3.4	5.3	20.9	14.7	15.7
Portugal	27.9	23.1	16.5	4.9	3.1	2.4	17.4	20.3	17.1
Romania	17.6	21.8	26.6	1.6	3.0	1.4	16.0	18.3	20.2
Slovenia	36.6	24.0	23.6	2.4	3.2	4.8	31.4	21.4	18.9
Slovenia	20.5	24.0	23.6	2.4	3.4	2.3	27.5	21.2	21.3
Sweden	19.6	19.3	19.5	2.7	2.8	2.8	16.8	16.5	16.7
Sweden	17.5	17.6	17.9	3.1	2.9	2.6	14.4	14.9	14.1
United Kingdom	17.4	16.7	14.7	1.3	1.2	2.7	16.1	14.9	12.0
United Kingdom	24.8	23.2	23.8	4.9	3.9	3.0	17.9	19.9	19.0
Sweden	11.6	14.0	14.4	1.4	1.6	1.6	10.4	12.4	12.8

GDP is the most frequently used price levels – are widely used for a



a at current market prices, 2009



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HICP methodology

The harmonised indices of consumer prices (HICP) definitions. This article outlines the aims and the HICP development project is ongoing. This document has a legal basis in that their production is...

- The main HICPs
- Uses of the HICPs
- A harmonised methodology for the HICP and the compliance monitoring
- Basic concepts
 - Aim and scope of the HICPs
 - Household final monetary consumption expenditure
 - Some basic requirements for HICPs
- Coverage
 - Goods and services
 - Geographic and population coverage
- Computation issues and price sampling
 - Weights for the HICP sub-indices
 - Index formulae
 - Macro index formula
 - Elementary aggregate indices
 - The level at which macro-aggregation takes place
 - Computation of country aggregates
 - Sampling of prices
- Price collection and treatment of price observation
 - Timing of price collections and of entering
 - The treatment of price reductions

The main HICPs

The HICPs on which most attention is focused are:

- the Monetary Union index of consumer prices (MUICP) — an aggregate index covering the countries in the euro area;
- the European index of consumer prices (EICP) — for the euro area plus the other European Union countries;
- the national HICPs — for each of the Member States of the European Union.

Beyond these there are also the European Economic Area index of consumer prices (EEAICP) and HICPs for the individual countries in the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. There are also interim HICPs for candidate countries. It is expected that once those countries accede to the EU their HICPs will be fully comparable with those of the existing Member States. The national HICPs are produced by the national statistical institutes, while the country-group aggregates are produced by Eurostat.

The official country-group aggregates reflect the evolution of economic and monetary union (EMU), the EU and the EEA. New Member States are chained into the index at the time of accession. In addition to these official aggregates, Eurostat computes also country aggregates with stable composition over time. For example, the aggregate 'EU-27' shows price indices covering all current 27 Member States since 1997.

Uses of the HICPs

Consumer price indices have a variety of potential uses, for example for indexing social benefits or contracts, or as inputs into various types of economic analyses. Following the Maastricht Treaty, the main thrust of the harmonisation project has been the use of the HICPs as convergence criteria and the main measure for monitoring price stability in the euro area. The HICPs have been set up to provide the best measure for international comparisons of consumer price inflation in the EU and the euro area, and for assessing price convergence and stability in the context of monetary policy analysis.

In the early stages of the project until 1998, the main use of the HICPs was in assessing the price stability and price convergence required for entry into Economic and monetary union. Since then, convergence in terms of price stability for new potential Members of the EMU has been assessed regularly by means of the HICP.

From 1999 onwards, the focus of interest shifted towards country-group aggregates — and in particular the euro area. This change of emphasis reflects the European Central Bank (ECB) objective of price stability and the view that the HICPs are the most appropriate price measure for assessing price stability. The focus of the HICPs on measuring price stability and convergence, and on international comparisons, does not mean that a wider range of users should not or cannot use HICPs for other purposes. Depending on the precise purpose the user has in mind, the HICPs may be the best available price statistics. All users of the HICPs should note, however, that the HICPs are revisable: the indices may change after the initial results are published.

Eurostat's website

Eurostat provides users with free access to all of its databases, as well as PDF versions of its publications; these are available from Eurostat's website. To discover more, open a web browser and go to the Eurostat homepage, at: ec.europa.eu/eurostat.



How to find Statistics Explained?

Statistics Explained is available at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained

For those already familiar with Eurostat's website, Statistics Explained may be reached from various web pages including the Eurostat homepage. Just look for the icon.

Who should visit Statistics Explained?

The main objective of Statistics Explained is to reach as broad an audience as possible. It is aimed at experts from academia or business, who are not familiar with Eurostat's website, while at the same time presenting information in a simple and easy to understand fashion so that it also appeals to the general public. Statistics Explained should also appeal to those who can not or do not want to use online databases. It is therefore useful to a broad array of users, for whatever purpose: study, work, discussing or sharing information with others, or curiosity.

Navigation and collaborative tools

There is a permanent navigational tool provided on the left-hand side of each screen within Statistics Explained, this provides useful tools to navigate, as well as links to other parts of Eurostat's website, the EU bookshop and a toolbox of utilities.

Along the top of each page there is a wide range of useful collaborative tools that allow interaction through social media networks, providing opportunities to share, blog, cite, print, bookmark or send articles. These built-in tools (such as Twitter or Facebook) allow users to communicate their findings to colleagues, friends or family.

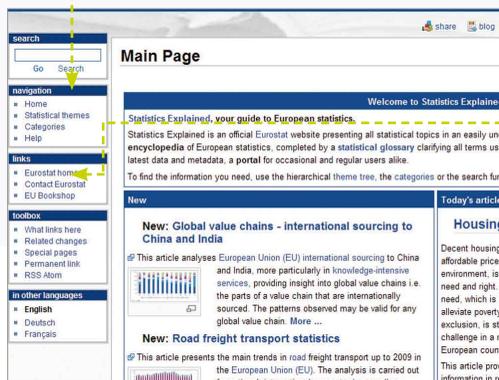


Searching for information on Statistics Explained

An easy way to find a particular article in Statistics Explained is through a standard search on the Internet using a few keywords – the chances are high that the article will appear near the top of the ranking of results.

Statistics Explained also has its own **search facility** that is always available in the top left-hand corner of each page.

Furthermore, Statistics Explained pages are included when users make a search for particular keyword(s) on Eurostat's website; the results are returned above a list of hyperlinks to related publications, datasets and metadata.



Navigating around Statistics Explained

Besides a search on keywords, there are two other navigational tools within Statistics Explained that may help users find an article: these are **statistical themes** and **categories**.

The hierarchy of **statistical themes** (and subthemes) reflects the thematic logic of Eurostat's website, where data and publications are grouped under one of nine headings, from **General**

and regional statistics, through to Science and technology. There is a hyperlink to a listing of all themes and subthemes that is available in the left-hand column of each Statistics Explained page.

In a similar way, categories are used on Statistics Explained for logical groupings of articles in a less formal manner. Categories are not classified in a hierarchy and new categories are created if they are useful for grouping sets of related articles. There is a hyperlink to an alphabetic listing of all categories available in the left-hand column of each Statistics Explained page. Furthermore, at the bottom of statistical articles and glossary pages there is a list of categories to which the particular page belongs; these hyperlinks can provide a useful tool for finding related information in other articles.

Categories

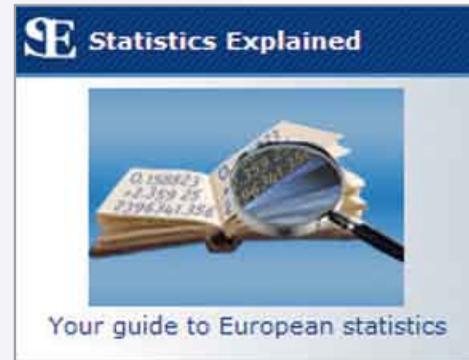
The following categories contain pages or media. Unused categories

Categories

Display categories starting at:

(first | last) View (previous 50) (next 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500)

- EU institutions glossary (76 members)
- Economy and finance (5 members)
- Economy and finance glossary (224 members)
- Education and training (8 members)
- Education and training glossary (20 members)
- Energy (13 members)
- Energy glossary (43 members)
- Energy in Sigma (1 member)
- Environment (30 members)
- Environment and energy (2 members)
- Environment glossary (79 members)
- Environmental Data Centre on Natural Resources and Products
- Eurostat publications (5 members)
- Exchange and interest rates (2 members)
- Exchange and interest rates glossary (4 members)
- External trade (12 members)
- External trade glossary (31 members)
- Farm structure (31 members)
- Fisheries (2 members)
- Fisheries glossary (11 members)
- Fisheries in Sigma (1 member)
- Food safety (2 members)
- Food safety glossary (21 members)



What is Statistics Explained?

Statistics Explained is a new tool that provides easy access to Eurostat's statistical information. Working in a similar way to Wikipedia, it is easy to use and easy to navigate. Statistics Explained is a rich source of information for the full-range of statistical subjects covered by Eurostat.

Statistics Explained is:

- an **encyclopaedia** of European Union statistics;
- a **portal** to further information for occasional and for regular users alike;
- a **statistical glossary**.

Statistics Explained makes extensive use of hyperlinking and similar possibilities offered by the Internet to provide seamless access to information at various levels. It contains statistical data and explanations, but also provides links to the latest figures and all kind of relevant background information which may be useful to understand the statistics presented.

Where can it be found?

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained

How is the information on Statistics Explained presented?

Statistics Explained is made up of highly interlinked web pages. There are essentially two basic types of pages on Statistics Explained: statistical articles that provide information on a particular topic, and glossary/background pages that provide more detailed, technical descriptions of an indicator or specific data collection. More details on how to navigate the wealth of information and on the general structure of statistical articles is provided overleaf.

The screenshot shows the Eurostat website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with 'HICP' entered. Below the search bar, there are 'Advanced search options' and a section titled 'Statistics Explained' showing '18 results in Statistics Explained for "HICP"'. A dashed arrow points from the text in the first paragraph to the search bar. Below the search results, there is a section titled 'Statistical themes' with a grid of links. A dashed arrow points from the text in the second paragraph to this section.

Statistical themes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [-] General and regional statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [+] Non-EU countries [+] Regions [+] Urban audit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [-] Economy and finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [+] Balance of payments [+] Consumer prices [+] Exchange and interest rates [+] Government statistics [+] National accounts (incl. GDP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [-] Population and social conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [+] Crime [+] Culture [+] Education and training [+] Health [+] Labour market [+] Living conditions and social protection [+] Population
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [-] Industry, trade and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [+] Industry and construction [+] Information society [+] Services [+] Short-term business statistics [+] Structural business statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [-] Agriculture, forestry and fisheries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [+] Agriculture [+] Fisheries [+] Forestry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [-] External trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no subcategories